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Dated: September 1, 2004

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*Nancy L. Hug*  
Nancy L. Hug

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application for:

Thomas A. Silvestrini

Serial No.: 08/596,221

Filing Date: July 15, 1996

For: SEGMENTED PLIABLE  
INTRASTROMAL CORNEAL  
INSERT

Examiner: Willse, David H.

Group Art Unit: 3738

Confirmation No.: 5679

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO COMMUNICATION**

Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Communication issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on August 18, 2004 in connection with the above-identified application. A response to the Notice is due September 18, 2004. Accordingly, this Response is timely filed.

The Listing of the Claims begin on page 2 of this Reply.

The Remarks begin on page 5 of this Reply.